



Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 12th Marines Sexual Assault Policy



It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by force, threat of force, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy, and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

Sexual assault committed by Marines, Sailors, or civilians working with 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, will not be tolerated and all incidents should be immediately reported. Sexual assault committed by Marines or Sailors assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Marines will be thoroughly investigated and we will ensure victims of sexual assault receive the care and support they need and the offenders held accountable.

Sexual assault victims are physically, mentally, and emotionally traumatized and wounded and will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect. Victims will receive the treatment and support they require and deserve without having to make an official report. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim protected unless otherwise indicated. Sexual assault victims who have the courage to report must feel confident in knowing their personal safety will be guarded and they will not be re-victimized during treatment and investigative actions.

Bystander intervention should be practiced and encouraged by all levels to prevent potential situations from escalating into sexual assault. Buddy accountability should become a standard behavior keeping fellow Marines/Sailors from committing sexual assault or becoming victims. Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents and irresponsible alcohol consumption can place a Marine at risk for sexual assault. It is imperative Marines and Sailors take care of each other and not allow an intoxicated service member to be victimized. Practicing bystander intervention is not ruining someone's fun but possibly saving their career or life.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of MCO 1752.5A. Commanders will ensure all members of their battery are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training from the commands Uniformed Victim Advocate or Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. To alleviate the barriers normally associated with victims of sexual assault (fear, embarrassment, shame) victims may notify the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SSgt Farfan), unit Victim Advocate (SSgt Cruz), or Chaplain (Lt Williams) with the promise of confidentiality.

Sexual Assault is a total contradiction to the core values that we hold sacred. Eliminating sexual assault takes a continuously dedicated effort. I expect all officers, SNCOs, and NCOs to embrace and enforce this policy.

Michael Roach